

S/N UNKNOWN

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Rinne, et al. Serial No.: UNKNOWN
Filed: CONCURRENT HERewith Docket No.: 975.328USW1
Title: RADIO LINK PROTOCOL WITH REDUCED SIGNALING OVERHEAD

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By: 

Name: Susan Heuiser

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment into the above-referenced application.

ABSTRACT

Please insert the attached abstract into the application as the last page thereof.

CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3, 4, 6, and 8 as follows. A clean copy of the entire set of claims is included below. A marked up copy of the amended claims is included in Appendix A.

1. A signaling method for a link protocol used for transmitting a data unit in a telecommunication system, comprising the steps of:
 - a) encapsulating said data unit in a protocol data unit having a field for a sequence number of said data unit; and
 - b) using a predetermined sequence number for signaling a control function of said link protocol.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said control function is a protocol reset function.
3. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said protocol data unit is an RLC protocol data unit of a UMTS system.
4. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined sequence number is the number "0".
5. A method according to claim 4, wherein a sequence numbering of said protocol data unit is continued with the number "1" after reaching a maximum number.
6. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined sequence number is one of the numbers having the highest values addressable in said sequence number field.
7. A method according to claim 6, wherein a sequence numbering of said protocol data unit is continued with the number "0" after reaching a maximum number defined to be less than said predetermined sequence number.
8. (Once Amended) A communication element using a link protocol for transmitting a data unit in a telecommunication system, wherein a control function for controlling said communication element is signaled by a signaling method according to claim 1.
9. A communication element according to claim 8, wherein said communication element is a base station or a radio network controller.
10. A communication element according to claim 8, wherein said communication element is a mobile station.
11. A transmitter for transmitting a data unit in a telecommunication system, wherein the transmitted data unit is encapsulated in a protocol data unit having a field for a sequence number, comprising:
 - a) signaling transmitting means **(1)** for signaling a control function; and

b) sequence numbering means **(2)**, responsive to said signaling transmitting means **(1)**, for indicating said control function using said sequence number field.

12. A receiver for receiving a data unit in a telecommunication system, wherein the received data unit is encapsulated in a protocol data unit having a field for a sequence number, comprising:

a) sequence number reading means **(11)** for reading a sequence number in said sequence number field; and

b) signaling receiving means **(12)**, responsive to the sequence number reading means, for interpreting a predetermined sequence number as a request for a control function.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to insert an abstract page into the application and to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4, 6, and 8.

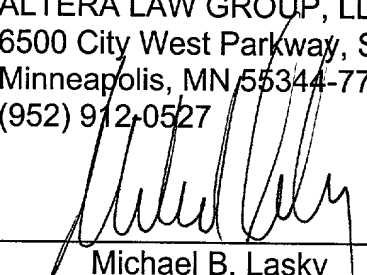
Applicant respectfully requests that this preliminary amendment be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's attorney of record, Michael B. Lasky at (952) 912-0527.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 3 April 2001



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Appendix A
Marked Up Version of the Amended Claims

1. A signaling method for a link protocol used for transmitting a data unit in a telecommunication system, comprising the steps of:
 - a) encapsulating said data unit in a protocol data unit having a field for a sequence number of said data unit; and
 - b) using a predetermined sequence number for signaling a control function of said link protocol.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said control function is a protocol reset function.
3. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein said protocol data unit is an RLC protocol data unit of a UMTS system.
4. (Once Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein said predetermined sequence number is the number "0".
5. A method according to claim 4, wherein a sequence numbering of said protocol data unit is continued with the number "1" after reaching a maximum number.
6. (Once Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein said predetermined sequence number is one of the numbers having the highest values addressable in said sequence number field.
7. A method according to claim 6, wherein a sequence numbering of said protocol data unit is continued with the number "0" after reaching a maximum number defined to be less than said predetermined sequence number.
8. (Once Amended) A communication element using a link protocol for transmitting a data unit in a telecommunication system, wherein a control function for controlling said communication element is signaled by a signaling method according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1.

9. A communication element according to claim 8, wherein said communication element is a base station or a radio network controller.

10. A communication element according to claim 8, wherein said communication element is a mobile station.

11. A transmitter for transmitting a data unit in a telecommunication system, wherein the transmitted data unit is encapsulated in a protocol data unit having a field for a sequence number, comprising:

- a) signaling transmitting means **(1)** for signaling a control function; and
- b) sequence numbering means **(2)**, responsive to said signaling transmitting means **(1)**, for indicating said control function using said sequence number field.

12. A receiver for receiving a data unit in a telecommunication system, wherein the received data unit is encapsulated in a protocol data unit having a field for a sequence number, comprising:

- a) sequence number reading means **(11)** for reading a sequence number in said sequence number field; and
- b) signaling receiving means **(12)**, responsive to the sequence number reading means, for interpreting a predetermined sequence number as a request for a control function.